The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-13 and 16 as being anticipated by Chipman et al. (US 6,292,894).

Claim 1 of the present invention relates to an integrated portal system which comprises an industry portal and a second portal of a different industry. The system integrates the portals so that a user can view information relating to both portals in a single system. The prior art does not anticipate or make obvious this claim or the claims depending upon it. As stated in the prior section of the patent application, there are portals on the Internet which relate to a single industry, such as paper, steel or chemicals. That is what is taught by Chipman and Science Applications International does exactly this on their Internet site. They list separate portals for each industry. When Chipman discusses portals, it relates to several portals in the same industry.

The problem solved by the present invention is to allow a user, like the president of Coca Cola, to be able to view several industries related to his business, such as plastic and aluminum, within a single portal and be able to work within this portal to perform searches and review information. Chipman provides its information on each separate industry in different portals and would not allow the president of coca cola to view the required information within a single portal.

Chipman relates to a system for performing a networked catalog search retrieval and information correlation for a product. A consumer can access the information and create an end product in a shorter amount of time. The invention uses a predefined common language and format. A supplier provides the information with tags which categorize the information. These tags may include a class identifier with each class having various attributes and methods. Through listing an item as belonging to a class

and having various attributes, a supplier may fully identify the item using this structured language. Through the combination of various parts, products may be compiled.

A scanning engine scans the computers having accessible pages so as to locate all pages having predefined organizational structure including class, attribute and methods identifiers. The local computer storing the categorized information is defined as a portal. The sector portal maintains a list of complying HTML pages at each supplier's site so that each portal need only retrieve a new list of supplier sites for compliant pages rather than search the Web.

So as to enable each supplier to provide requisite information or its pages, a sector portal establishes common terms for suppliers and consumers to use. The sector portal is so named because each industry sector is contemplated to have at least one governing portal from which all other portals in that industry sector derive their common vocabulary. Multiple portals may exist for an industry. There is no discussion regarding integration of the portals for different industries.

Embodiments of the invention contemplate including a variety of different domains each directed to at least one type of industry sector. A variety of industry sectors are and, to these sectors, overlapping domains may exist. For example, the manufacturing industry may include products and processes. The shipping may include time tables for shipping routes overlapping as to delivery schedules for manufacturing industry. The real estate industry may include commercial and residential properties. Knowledgebase 206 is an industry sector knowledge base.

Embodiments of the invention contemplate at least one industry sector knowledge base existing for each industry in a given locality. The invention teaches that there are

several portals related to each industry. Baseline ontology methods may include business functions, price or cost analysis, calculation of lead time required for product delivery, calculation of need for customization, a function for ordering parts and a function for ordering services. Applications of the invention may include manufactured goods as relating to, at least, industry sectors, including aerospace, automotive, general and discrete manufacturing, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and other industry specific manufacturing supply and design chains and to service industries including, at least, real estate markets, financial institutions' information exchange, loan institutions' information exchange, insurance institutions' information exchange, and other industry specific information exchanges.

The Examiner states that Chipman teaches a method and system for retrieving, organizing and utilizing networked data, comprising:

As per claim 1,

an industry related portal (column 4, lines 10-17);

So as to enable each supplier to provide requisite information on its pages, a "sector" portal establishes common terms (class, attribute, and method names) for the suppliers and consumers to use. The sector portal is so named because each industry sector is contemplated to have at least one governing portal from which all other portals in that industry sector derive their common vocabulary, taxonomy, or ontology.

a second portal of a different industry (column 4, lines 10-17);

The portals discussed in this section relate to separate portals for the same industry.

said system integrating said portals so that a user can view information relating to both portals in a single system (column 2, lines 46-54; column 3, lines 51-65).

The invention relates to a computer-based information organizing, searching, retrieving, and exchanging platform. Through gathering organized information, a consumer accesses the gathered information to create an end product in a shorter period of time. The present invention uses a predefined common language and format (for example, hypertext markup language (HTML) extended to implement an underlying organizational structure) for organizing information placed on the network computers.

As described in one embodiment, the cataloged information is stored in a local computer system interfacing between the end user and the information source. For purposes of simplicity, the local computer system as storing categorized information is hereinafter referred to as a "portal" as the portal acts as a primary interface to the organized information residing on the network of computers. When a portal is located on a user's local site, the user has quick access to the variety of information stored at the site.

To this end, embodiments of the invention contemplate the sector portal maintaining a list of complying HTML pages at each supplier's site so that each portal need only retrieve a new list of supplier sites for compliant pages, rather than search the Web as a whole for compliant pages.

None of the above describes the system integrating portals of two different industries. The above describes providing or portal to act as a primary interface in a single industry.

Therefore claim 1 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 2, said method and system, wherein said use can order part or services (column 12, lines 40-41).

Baseline ontology methods may include business functions, price or cost analysis, calculation of lead time required for product delivery, calculation of need for customization, a function for ordering parts, and a function for ordering services.

For the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 2 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

As per claims 4-5 and 9, said method and system, further comprising a search engine (column 6, line 63 – column 7, lines 14).

Figure 2 shows a generic portal 201. Generic portal 201 is represented in the middle of Web 101 as the portals may be located in a variety of different physical and functional locations, depending on the industry and the resources available to the players involved. Portal 201 includes a Web site server 202, an online page generator 204 (also known as a protocol translator), a searching system 205 (referred to herein as a Web Crawler), search engines 203, and a knowledge base 206. Here knowledge base 206 is represented as an industry sector knowledge base.

Embodiments of the invention contemplate at least one industry sector knowledge base existing for each industry in a given locality. For example, in the real estate industry, a single knowledge base may support the entire industry in a given locality as real estate agents would access a single knowledge base for retrieving residential and commercial listings. In other industries, each company

may include its own updateable knowledge base allowing limited access to the public and greater access to employees.

Regarding claim 4, for the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 4 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

Regarding claim 5, for the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 5 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman. Further Chipman only teaches performing a transaction within a single industry and not related industries.

Regarding claim 9, for the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 9 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 7, said method and system, further comprising product specification information (column 9, lines 56-63).

The information which a supplier may have on his site may include image data including VRML data, CGM Active Graphics images, Java Parametric Optimizers, CAD drawings, performance specifications, executable simulations, links to the supplier's online ordering system, links to previous order status, or other image data information, etc. Also non-image data may be found at the supplier's site including HTML pages including organized protocol, EDI links (links furthering electronic data interchange), technical data, technical services, or other non-image data information, etc. When a portal scans a supplier's site, the invention contemplates that at least some technical data (and possibly some image data) may be retrieved and stored in the portal.

Regarding claim 7, for the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 7 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 10, said method and system, wherein the integrated portal system is created based on entering job characteristics of a user (column 7, lines 37-56).

For example, a hierarchical search may be performed. Using a hierarchical search engine, a user may select a general class and step through the various subclasses until a specific subclass is reached. For instance, a user may be looking for brushless motors as classified in Parts/electromechanical parts/motors/brushless motors (where the general class is "Parts" and "electromechanicalparts", "motors", and "brushless motors" being nested subclasses). To find a list of brushless motors, a user would first select "parts", then "electromechanical parts", then "motors", and then "brushless motors". When reaching "brushless motors", the list of available brushless motors would be displayed. Also a full text Boolean search may be performed on the terms stored from Web Crawler 205. For example, using a search engine accessing a linear index (for example, as supplied by Alta Vista from Digital Equipment Corporation), a user may request information on "brushless motor". In response the search request, the search engine would scan through a stored index of terms for "brushless" and "motor" and retrieve all matching results.

Claim 10 relates to a method for creating an integrated portal system comprising entering job characteristics of a user. The system creates the integrated portal system based on the job characteristics of the user. The section cited by the Examiner relates to doing a search to find a subclass of goods. The present invention creates an integrated portal system based on the job characteristics of the user. For example, as stated above with the president of coca cola, he requires viewing plastic, paper and aluminum portals

based on his job characteristics. This is not taught by Chipman. Therefore, claim 10 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 11, said method and system, comprising an industrial database comprising a search engine; said database having product or service specifications, product reports product and a system for answering questions from a user (column 5, lines 59-62; column 6, line 63 – column 7, lines 14; column 10, lines 26-34).

So portal 102 stores some information which may answer some initial questions for user 103 and point to suppliers 104 and 105 for additional information.

An operator at desktop framework 401 requests a template page 307. The template page may be transferred to the protocol translator where the template page is combined with data (class, method, attribute, etc.) specifying the supplied products and processes from supplier 105. The resulting page 404 may be transferred to web server 403 for posting. On request, the compiled pages 404 may be transferred to other sites (for example, users' portals 102) as pages 410. Alternately, the protocol translator may map data stored in legacy databases 406 to fields in the template, create an HTML page 404 embodying that data and the special protocol tags and transfer that page 404 to web server 403 for posting.

Regarding claim 11, Chipman does not teach an industrial database which answers questions from a user. The database further does not provide independent product reports. The Examiner cites to a section which states that the system provides information that may answer some initial questions from a user, not that the system

answers questions from a user. Therefore, claim 11 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 12-13, said method and system, comprising a list of vendors and vendor product information (column 9, lines 36-65).

Once portal 201 has received new pages, a variety of methods exist for updating the other portals in the sector (provided that the industry supports the other portals). First, each portal 201 may include a list of all other portals. Once new information is added, the portal 201 may transmit a message to all other portals in the industry that new information has been received by portal 201 and either attaching the new information or providing a location on portal 201 for access to the stored information. This method provides the advantages that a user may transmit information to a minimum number of portals and have the transmitted information replicated by the receiving portal. Second, the sector portal may receive and maintain a listing of all new pages. Periodically, or upon demand of a user, each portal may scan the sector portal for new page addresses then scan the new pages themselves for retrieval of the desired class, attribute, and method information.

For the reasons stated above for claim 11, claims 12 and 13 are not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 16, said method and system, wherein said database provides a price analysis mechanism (column 12, lines 37-38).

For the reasons stated above for claim 11, claim 16 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 8, 14-15 and 17 as being obvious over Chipman et al.

As per claims 3, 8 and 17, Chipman et al. teach all the limitations of claims 3, 8 and 17, including a governing portal for each industry, and other portals in that industry, except specifically teaching that said portals include a mini portal and macro portal.

However, these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The functions performed by said system would be the same regardless of the definition of other portals. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability.

Claim 3 requires that the portals contain mini portals and micro portals that are defined in the specification. Chipman does not teach or describe a breakdown of the portals whatsoever, so that each user seeing a portal sees all portions of the portal. Further, for the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 3 is not obvious over Chipman.

Claim 8 requires that the search engine be able to search the mini and micro portals claimed in the present invention. For the reasons stated above, claim 8 is not obvious over Chipman.

Claim 17 relates to a content management system that is broken up into mini and microportals as described in the specification of the present invention. Chipman does not teach or describe a breakdown of the portals whatsoever, so that each user seeing a portal sees all portions of the portal. Therefore, claim 17 is not obvious over Chipman.

As per claims 14 and 15, Chipman et al. teach all the limitations of claims 14 and 15, including a database including a template specifying the supplied products and

processes (column 10, lines 25-30), except that said template is a characteristic or usage template.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chipman et al. to include that said template is a characteristic or usage template, because it appears that the claimed features do not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art, and the teachings of Chipman et al. would perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with either specifically teaching a characteristic or usage template, or not.

Claim 14 requires that the database have a characteristic template. Chipman does not teach this feature nor make it obvious. Further for the reasons stated above, claim 14 is not obvious over Chipman.does not teach this feature nor make it obvious.

Claim 15 requires that the database have a usage template. Chipman does not teach this feature nor make it obvious. Further for the reasons stated above, claim 15 is not obvious over Chipman.

The Examiner has rejected claim 6 as being obvious over Chipman et al. in view of Rangan (US 6,412,073).

As per claim 6, Chipman et al. teach said method and system, including ontologty tracking component (column 11, lines 35-37).

Local portal 607 includes at least two distinct systems: a crawler 609 (similar to crawler 205 described above in Fig. 2), and ontology tracking component 608.

Chipman et al. do not specifically teach that the ontologty tracking component includes transaction-tracking component.

Rangan teaches a method and system for user-interactive portals accessible via the Internet, wherein a facility is provided for automatically tracking transactions made at various destinations (column 8, lines 20-21).

In another embodiment, the invention recognizes the increasing use of the Internet for fiscal transactions, such as purchasing goods and services, a facility is provided in a user's profile to automatically track transactions made at various destinations, and to authorize payment either on a transaction-by-transaction basis, or after a session, using access to the user's bank accounts, all of which may be pre-programmed and authorized by the user.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chipman et al. to include transaction-tracking component, because it would enhance the capability of doing business via said portals.

Chipman describes portal for providing information from suppliers. It does not relate to transactions. Therefore it would not be obvious to combine this reference with Rangan. Therefore, claim 6 is not obvious over Chipman in view of Rangan.

Applicant now believes that the application is in condition for allowance.
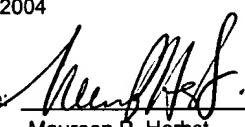
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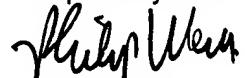
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